

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated 11 July 2007, 1-5, 11, and 21-24 are rejected on prior art grounds and claims 6-10 and 12-20 are objected to as being allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of their respective basic claims and any intervening claims.

On 10 December 2007, the undersigned Applicant's attorney conducted an interview with the Examiner at the Patent Office. In the interview, the rejected claims were discussed along with the relied upon reference, U.S. 6,232,902 to Wada. The objected claims 6-10 and 12-20 were also discussed. The Examiner confirmed that if these claims were placed in independent form and if the rejected claims were cancelled, the application would be in condition for allowance.

In accordance with the Office Action and pursuant to the in-person interview, claims 1-5, 11, and 21-24 are herein cancelled and each of claims 6-10 and 12-20 are placed into independent form. These claims are now allowable and, with the cancellation of rejected claims, the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant notes that the cancellation of the rejected claims is in no way a concession of the patentability of these claims; Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims under 35 U.S.C. 120 in a related application(s), if desired.

Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any extension of time necessary for entry and consideration of this Amendment. If there are any charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number regarding this Amendment or otherwise concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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